
Announcements

approaches, percutaneous approaches, surgical techniques, devices, and long-term results. Faculty presentations of the latest available data, techniques, and state-of-the-art reviews will be supplemented by abstract and video presentations selected by the program committee from submitted original work. Selected manuscripts from accepted presentations will be considered for publication in a supplement to *The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery*.

On behalf of the Program Committee, we invite you to submit your abstract and video for consideration to the 2013 AATS Mitral Conclave. Abstracts are limited to 450 words. You may use ONE image OR ONE table within your abstract, which will NOT deduct from the word count.

Accepting Abstracts and Videos in the following categories:

- Degenerative Valve Disease
- Mitral Regurgitation in Heart Failure
- Ischemic Mitral Regurgitation
- Rheumatic Mitral Valve Disease
- Mitral Valve Endocarditis
- Congenital Mitral Valve Disease
- Other Mitral Valve Disease

- Repair Techniques & Strategies
- Mitral Valve Replacement
- Long Term Outcomes
- AFib in Mitral Valve Disease
- Tricuspid Valve Disease

Video Submissions

If submitting a video, you MUST submit an abstract via the abstract submission site. All submissions must include an abstract with a maximum of 450 words. Videos may not exceed 5 minutes in length. Complete submission guidelines can be found online at www.aats.org/mitral.

Accreditation

The American Association for Thoracic Surgery is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

This activity has been approved for **AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**.

For more information on the 2013 AATS Mitral Conclave, or on submitting an abstract/video for consideration, please contact mitral@aats.org or visit www.aats.org/mitral.

The Western Thoracic Surgical Association

Applications for Membership

The WTSA Application for Membership is now online and must be submitted electronically. A candidate's application must include the following uploads: a photo, a complete curriculum vitae with bibliography, and the 3 most

significant articles that s/he personally wrote. The candidate's electronic membership application must be completed and submitted online by March 1, 2013, and all support letters uploaded by that candidate's sponsors by March 31, 2013, in order for the candidate to be considered for election to membership at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Visit the WTSA Web site at www.westernthoracic.org to read membership eligibility requirements and to initiate an online application.

The American Board of Thoracic Surgery

Notices

The part I (written) examination was held on December 3. It is planned that this examination will be given at multiple sites throughout the United States using an electronic format. The closing date for registration is August 1 each year. Those wishing to be considered for examination must apply online at www.abts.org.

To be admissible for the Part II (oral) examination, a candidate must have successfully completed the Part I (written) examination.

A candidate applying for admission to the certifying examination must fulfill all the requirements of the Board in force at the time the application is received.

Please address all communications to the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, 633 North St Clair Street, Suite 2320, Chicago, IL 60611 (telephone: 312-202-5900).

Requirements for Maintenance of Certification

Diplomates of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery (ABTS) who plan to participate in the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process must hold an unrestricted medical license in the locale of their practice and privileges in a hospital accredited by the JCAHO (or other organization recognized by the ABTS). In addition, a valid ABTS certificate is an absolute requirement for entrance into the Maintenance of Certification process. If your certificate has expired, the only pathway for renewal of a certificate is to